

NOTES AND NEWS.

At the outset of a new year 'The Auk' finds itself with an abundance of material on hand; a most gratifying condition from the standpoint of the Editor but not perhaps from that of the contributors, since the appearance of some of the papers will of necessity be delayed. Under the circumstances a word on the matter of precedence of papers may be in order. It has been the practice of 'The Auk' to keep an exact record of the date of acceptance of each paper and so far as practicable they are published in this order. As, however, 'The Auk' is a journal and not merely a work of reference, and as it appeals to a very wide range of readers, it is necessary to keep the matter in each issue as varied as possible. What might be called "readable" articles are therefore arranged in one series and technical papers and geographic lists in another and the aim of the Editor is to mingle the two judiciously in every issue. If one predominates it is evidence that material of the other kind is lacking. Moreover in accepting papers a wide range of qualifications is considered, for it seems that everything that pertains to ornithology should have a place on the pages of 'The Auk' if it is to be, what we hope it may become, the leading ornithological journal in the world. Therefore papers are accepted for their historic, literary, biographic and economic value as well as for their intrinsic scientific worth. We have heard suggestions to the effect that at the present rate of increase in the production of ornithological literature there would soon be room for another journal of general ornithology in America. But two such journals would of necessity duplicate one another to a great extent and the cost to the subscriber, who would desire to have all the literature, would be doubled. If we could but secure an endowment sufficient to enable us to double the size of 'The Auk'—and \$25,000 would do it—then we should be able to disseminate twice as much literature at the same price and to publish all the papers submitted to us promptly while the permanent maintenance of 'The Auk' would be assured. The advancement of ornithology would seem to be best attained by the widest distribution of ornithological literature at the least cost and the increase in size of an existing journal would accomplish this end better than a multiplication of journals.

With the new year 'The Auk' responding to numerous requests publishes the address of each author at the end of his article in order to facilitate correspondence.

The list of "Publications Received" will be omitted in future since almost all of the books and journals mentioned are reviewed in the same issue in which they are listed. Such as are not reviewed will still be listed as "Additional Publications Received."

To the many contributors and others who have so generously aided

him during 1919 and in previous years, the Editor of 'The Auk' extends his thanks, with the hope that their support may continue during 1920, a year which gives promise of being most notable in the field of ornithological research.—W. S.

DR. CHARLES CONRAD ABBOTT died at his home in Bristol, Pa., on July 28, 1919, age 76 years. He was widely known as a popular writer on nature, as an archaeologist, and in his earlier years as an ichthyologist, while throughout his life he was an ardent out door student of the habits of animals.

He was born on June 4, 1843, at Trenton, N. J., son of Timothy Abbott and Susan Conrad Abbott, while his maternal grandfather, from whom he apparently inherited his love for nature, was Solomon W. Conrad, sometime lecturer on botany and mineralogy in the University of Pennsylvania. From early youth he was deeply interested in natural history studies, and showing no interest in business he decided to study medicine, as being the profession most nearly akin to his hobbies. He graduated in 1865, but never engaged in practice and acquiring the old Abbott homestead, "Three Beeches," on the Delaware below Trenton, in 1874, he devoted practically his whole life to the study of nature on its broad acres and in the surrounding woods and marshes.

In 1884 appeared his first popular nature work entitled 'A Naturalist's Rambles about Home' followed two years later by 'Upland and Meadow' probably his best effort, which was pronounced by James Purves, an English writer, as the "most delightful book of its kind which America has given us" adding that it closely approached White's *Selborne*. He published a number of other works of the same kind, and also some novels which were not very successful. He made some valuable contributions to archaeology and was connected with the Peabody Museum at Cambridge and for a time with the Museum of the University of Pennsylvania. At the former institution his collection of some 20,000 specimens from the Delaware Valley is deposited. He was also a voluminous contributor to 'Popular Science Monthly' and other similar journals.

His most important ornithological contribution was the catalogue of New Jersey birds in Cooke's 'Geology of New Jersey,' published in 1868. This contained some remarkable errors of identification as did some of his other ornithological papers of about the same time, which naturally brought forth criticism. This was something that Dr. Abbott seemed unable to tolerate and he stubbornly maintained the correctness of his assertions in spite of overwhelming evidence to the contrary.

He was of a very peculiar temperament and caustic in his comments so that he made enemies or rather drove away many who would have been fast friends. To those who understood him he was a most interesting companion and none could ask for a more entertaining host than he, when at his beautiful home on the Delaware, he took his guests to his familiar haunts and told them the traditions and happenings associated with them.

It is a pity that his peculiarities and his unfortunate early ornithological experiences kept him from associating intimately with ornithologists, or taking part in the activities of scientific societies. His books contain some beautiful sketches of nature about the Delaware Valley and he was the only writer of his class who did for the Carolinian birds such as the Chat, Tufted Tit, Cardinal etc., what the New England writers have done for the more northern species. Dr. Abbott was married in 1874 and is survived by his widow and a son and daughter. The burning of his old home not very long before his death and the loss of many of his valued manuscripts etc., was a severe blow, and cast a gloom over the remaining years of his life.—W. S.

EDWARD EVERETT BREWSTER, an Associate of the A. O. U. since 1893, died at Shenectady, N. Y. on July 1, 1919. He was born March 24, 1856, at West Cornwall, Connecticut, graduated at the Westfield, Mass., High School in 1875, and from Sheffield Scientific School, Yale University, in 1878, with the degree of Ph.B. in chemistry. In January, 1881, he accepted a position with the Menominee Mining Company of Norway, Michigan, and February 19, 1883, was transferred to their Chapin mine at Iron Mountain, in the same State. In 1891, he became chemist of the Pewabic Company of Iron Mountain, which position he held until his death. In 1918 he removed to Iron River, Mich., to take the position of Supervising Chemist of the Osana Grading Association, which graded the ore from seven different mines, the ore shipped annually amounting to about a million and a quarter tons.

He married Elizabeth Tayler Edwards in 1888, and they had four children. For twenty-one years Mr. Brewster was one of the trustees of the Iron Mountain public schools, being president of the board for three years.

Always interested in natural history, he was an enthusiastic bird-lover and made considerable collections of skins and eggs, which have been generously presented to the Michigan Agricultural College by his heirs. Among the birds is the Yellow-headed Blackbird taken at Iron Mountain May 17, 1890, which constituted the first record of that species for the State. The egg collection comprises upward of two hundred sets, mainly local, and all prepared with the most painstaking care.

Mr. Brewster contributed many notes to Professor Cook's 'Birds of Michigan' (1893), and was especially helpful to the writer in preparing 'Michigan Bird Life' (1912). In spite of the exacting demands of his profession he kept ever in touch with the wild life about him and his infrequent letters invariably contained facts of his own observation which testified to a keen insight and unflagging interest.

He is buried at his birthplace, West Cornwall, Connecticut.—WALTER B. BARROWS.

BARRON BRAINERD, an Associate of the Union since 1917, died in Brookline, Mass., May 15, 1919, following an illness of two months. Mr.

Brainerd was born in Boston, March 3, 1893. He attended the public schools of Brookline until 1910 when he entered the Hallock School at Great Barrington, Mass., preparatory for Williams College, which he entered the following year and graduated with his class in 1915.

After graduating he taught for a year before taking up post-graduate work at Harvard University, where he spent two years specializing in economics and international law.

At the outbreak of the war he at once volunteered, but was rejected. Not discouraged, he submitted to an operation, and in August 1918 was accepted for enlistment in the Navy, but on account of the influenza epidemic raging at that time, he was not ordered to report for duty until after the first of October. He was promoted to the grade of Chief Boatswains' Mate U. S. N. R. F., and as such was attending the Candidates Material School at Cambridge when he developed the illness that resulted in his death.

His interest in birds dated back to the time that he was twelve years old, and continued unabated for the rest of his life. During his five years of attendance at school and college in Berkshire county he worked indefatigably during his spare moments and gathered much valuable data on the migration, distribution and abundance of birds in that section of Massachusetts. In January, 1916 he was elected to active membership in the Nuttall Ornithological Club, and served as its Secretary from December, 1917 to the time of his death. During this period he was among the foremost in the ranks of the active field workers in the region about Boston.

Mr. Brainerd possessed the rare faculty of doing well everything to which he set hand or mind. He was never satisfied to do anything except his very best in any of his numerous interests whether athletics, studies, or ornithology. His enthusiasm and good nature were contagious.

To those who were privileged to have known him, his loss is a very real one, leaving a place that can never be filled.— J. L. PETERS.

THE Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture at Washington, D. C., desires during the coming year to greatly increase the number of its voluntary migration and bird count observers. The satisfactory carrying out of the provisions of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act involves careful study of bird migration and its attendant problems, and many additional data are desired. Any persons who are willing to assist by making reports on the migration of birds in their localities, will be very gladly furnished with the requisite blanks by the Biological Survey.

At the annual meeting of the Nuttall Ornithological Club held on December 1, 1919, Dr. Glover M. Allen was elected president to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. William Brewster who had held the office ever since the Club was organized. The secretary, Mr. Campbell Bosson, declining reelection, this office was filled by the election of Mr. Warren F. Eaton.

THE president of the A. O. U. has appointed as a Committee on Classification and Nomenclature of North American Birds, Witmer Stone, Chairman, Charles W. Richmond, Jonathan Dwight, T. S. Palmer and Harry C. Oberholser. It was thought that the old committee had become too large for effective work as it was impossible to secure a quorum to attend a meeting, all the members of the new committee, however, were members of the old one. A meeting will be held in Washington soon after the first of the year when plans for a new edition of the A. O. U. 'Check-List' will be formulated and active work begun. It is planned to make this work the Nearctic volume of the proposed 'Systema Avium' to be gotten out jointly by the B. O. U. and the A. O. U. while the Neotropical volume will probably also be prepared by an A. O. U. Committee. Mr. W. L. Selater has been conferring with the members of the A. O. U. Committee on plans for a uniform system of classification and nomenclature and for establishing uniform limits for such genera as occur on both sides of the Atlantic.

THE collection of birds at the Victoria Memorial Museum at Ottawa, according to information obtained from the curator Mr. P. A. Taverner, now contains some 14,000 skins and mounted birds and 1,600 sets of eggs and nests. These are practically all Canadian specimens and with a very few gaps include all the species mentioned in the Macoun Catalogue.

The following localities are more or less fully represented: Cape Sable and King's Co., N. S.; Miscou Island, Gloucester Co., N. B.; Peree, Gaspé Co., and Bonne Esperance, Saguenay Co., Que.; Ottawa, Point Pelee, Go-Home Bay, Georgian Bay, and Kapuskasing, Ont.; Lac Seul, N. Ont.; Douglas and Shoal Lake, Man.; Indian Head, Sask.; Medicine Hat, Red Deer River, Edmonton, Banff, and Jasper Park, Alta.; Fernie, Elko, Trail, Midway, Penticton, Revelstoke, Kamloops, Chilliwack, Agassiz, Vancouver, Victoria, Departure Bay, Comox, Barkley Sound, Hazelton, Vanderhoof, and Telkwa, B. C.; Teslin Lake, Y. T.; Arctic Coast, east to Coronation Gulf, and Franklin, Victoria, Banks, Melville and Southampton Islands. Many of the specimens of the older geological survey expeditions have been lost but the magnificent Spreadborough collection is in good state of preservation. In 1911, the collection numbered but 3000 specimens.

A STUDY of the A. O. U. list of members shows some interesting facts. There are still on the roll nine of the founders; Allen, Batchelder, Bicknell, Brown, Cory, Fisher, Merriam, Ridgway and Shufeldt. Of those elected in 1883, are twelve Fellows: Barrows, Chadbourne, Deane, Dutcher, Dwight, Grinnell (G. B.), Loomis, Nehrling, Nelson, Roberts, Sage and Saunders, and two Retired Fellows: Henshaw, Lawrence (N. T.), while seven are Members: Evermann, Jeffries, Knowlton, Murdoch, Seton, Stephens, and Townsend (C. H.), and two Associates; Harry Merrill and H. K. Coale.

The 1884 series comprises only, Bangs, Widmann and Stejneger. In 1885 there were the following additions: Anthony, Bishop, Chapman and Stone

all now Fellows; Mrs. Bailey, Butler, Gault, S. N. Rhoads, and Rives, Members and, W. F. Hendrickson, A. M. Ingersoll, W. H. Fox, C. B. Riker, H. M. Sage and C. W. Chamberlain, Associates.

In 1886 there were elected: W. L. Baily and H. L. Clark, now Members, and J. M. Edson, G. F. Morecom, A. G. Paine, L. B. Woodruff, and J. Barnard.

These constitute the fifty-seven members of the A. O. U. of longest standing. There are several members on the list at present who were elected during the above period but who dropped out for a number of years and were later reelected.

THE results of the Canadian Arctic Expedition of 1913-1918 are being published rapidly by the Government at Ottawa. So far the only one relating at all to birds is that on the bird parasites (*Mallophaga*) of which twenty species were obtained. Dr. Anderson upon whom devolves the editing of the whole series, is hard at work upon his own reports on the Mammals and Birds and hopes to get them out during the coming year.

WE learn from the first number of 'The South African Journal of Natural History,' that the South African Ornithologists' Union and the Transvaal Biological Society, have amalgamated to form the South African Biological Society, by which body the journal is published. An historical account of the former of the parent societies states that it was organized on April 8, 1904, with Mr. W. L. Selater, then resident in South Africa, as the first president. Twenty-two numbers of the 'Journal of the South African Ornithologists' Union' and three numbers of the 'Bulletin' were published under the editorship, first of Mr. J. Bucknill and later of Mr. A. K. Haagner, to whose suggestion was originally due the organization of the Union.

The present combination seems to promise greater strength and more regular publication and we look forward to many valuable ornithological papers in the new 'Journal.'

THE Delaware Valley Ornithological Club tendered a dinner to Mr. William Lutley Selater at Philadelphia, on the evening of December 11, 1919, in which forty-five members participated. Mr. Selater gave an interesting account of a former visit to the city with his father in 1884. Dr. Spencer Trotter spoke of his early association with the Academy of Natural Sciences, and his meetings there with Mr. Henry Seebohm and Dr. Elliott Coues. Dr. Cornelius Weygandt spoke of the love of bird study as the common heritage of the English speaking people, and other addresses were made by Dr. Wm. E. Hughes and Mr. Samuel N. Rhoads, while Mr. W. L. Baily exhibited some excellent lantern slides of local bird life.

The occasion was of further interest as it marked the thirtieth anniversary of the founding of the Club.

THE publishers of Dr. Ernst Hartert's work 'Die Vögel der paläarktischen Fauna,' Messrs. R. Friedländer & Sohn, 11 Karlstrasse, Berlin

N. W. 6, announce that part X, beginning with the *Ibidida*, is now in press and will probably appear early in 1920. As the whole of the manuscript is finished, this monumental work will now be completed, and subsequent parts are expected to come out at reasonable intervals. The printing, however, is at present only possible with pecuniary sacrifice and the price of each part must be considerably increased. The extent of the work will be larger than originally estimated and will comprise three large volumes, including a supplement to volume I.

BELIEVING that a better knowledge of wild life will bring about better conservation of it, and that when people are on their summer vacations they are most responsive to education on wild life resources, the California Fish and Game Commission backed by the Nature Study League instituted this past summer a series of lectures and nature study field trips designed to stimulate interest in the proper conservation of natural resources. Six different resorts in the Tahoe region were selected for the work, and here illustrated lectures on the game birds, song birds, mammals, and fish, given by Dr. Harold C. Bryant of the University of California, furnished evening entertainment while early morning trips afield gave vacationists an introduction to mountain wild life.

Compact nature study libraries were placed at the resorts by the California Nature Study League and an exhibit of colored pictures and other illustrated material was on display. Thus vacationists were further able to increase their fund of information regarding wild life by a study of pictures, specimens and books.

This experiment in making conservationists out of vacationists proved so successful that another year will doubtless see the work expanded and the opportunity to study under a nature guide offered to thousands of vacationists in all parts of the State.

THE Museum of Vertebrate Zoölogy of the University of California has received from Miss Annie M. Alexander an endowment of \$200,000, the proceeds of which are to be used henceforth and exclusively for its maintenance. The work of the Museum was formally inaugurated on March 23, 1908, when Miss Alexander, upon her own initiative, entered into an agreement with the University by which she promised support for a period of seven years. Since that time she has continued her support in increasing measure, until, by her endowment, she has now insured the continuance of the Museum for all time.

The work of the Museum, through its able staff headed by Dr. Joseph Grinnell, in preserving specimens of the higher vertebrates of western North America, and in publishing the results of their studies of the fauna, is well known both here and abroad, and it will be a matter of congratulation for zoölogists everywhere to know that this admirable work is to continue without interruption. Miss Alexander deserves all praise for the conception of the Museum and the line of work it was to pursue as well as for her liberality in providing for its maintenance.